



DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0124 (154571.1)

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PATENT

SEP 21 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Marco A. DeMello, et al.

Serial No.: 09/604,540

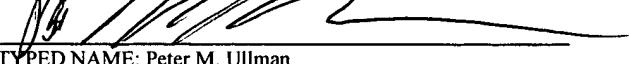
Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: June 27, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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REGISTRATION NO.: 43,963

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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Dear Sir:

#### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

- In accordance with §1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with  the first or  second After Final Submission, therefore:
  - Certification in Accordance with §1.97(e) is attached; or
  - The fee of \$240.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is attached.
- In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, therefore:
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- In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before, or simultaneously with, the payment of the Issue Fee, therefore included are: Certification in Accordance with §1.97(e); Petition Requesting Consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement; and the fee of \$130.00 as set forth in §1.17(i)(1).
- Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.
- Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:
  - In view of the voluminous nature of references [list as appropriate], and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner, copies are not enclosed herewith.

- In accordance with §1.98(d), copies of the following references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are not enclosed herewith because they were previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in patent application(s) for which a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 have been made in the instant application:
- Copies of references [list as appropriate] listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 were previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in prior application Serial No. , filed .
- If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.

Applicants wish to point out that several of the references cited have common specifications and drawings. Specifically:

Regarding U.S. Patent Nos. 5,715,403, 5,629,980, 5,634,012, and 5,638,443:  
all four of these patents share a common specification.

Regarding U.S. Patent Nos. 4,827,508, 4,977,594, 5,050,213, and 5,410,598:  
all four of these patents share a common specification.

Regarding U.S. Patent Nos. 5,910,987, 5,917,912, 5,915,019, 5,949,876, and 5,982,891: all five of these patents share a common specification.

Regarding U.S. Patent No. 5,892,900: This patent encompasses the entire specification and all drawings in the '987, '912, '019, '876, and '891 patents, but also adds approximately 25 columns of additional material and several drawing sheets.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3050.

This form is submitted in duplicate.

There are no listed references which are not in the English language.

Date: 9-19-00



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